

ISAC EXCELLENCE IN ACTION PROGRAM

Please fill out each field completely:

Please indicate nomination type: Program: XXX Individual:

Name of program: Linn County GIS Division - Property Tax Collections and Distribution Hub

Name of Project Manager: Matt Boyle County: Linn

Name of nominator: Brian D. Gardner Title: Sheriff (ISAC Immediate Past-President)

Nominator's phone: 319-892-6100 Nominator's email: brian.gardner@linncountyiowa.gov

Location based information and services are vital products any level of government can utilize to enhance the understanding of government services using a Geographic Information System (GIS). Leveraging the ESRI ArcGIS platform, the Linn County GIS Division has worked on projects that support and improve the administration of services by providing new innovative ideas and workflows that enhance information access to County staff, stakeholders, and residents.

I would like to nominate Matt Boyle from the GIS division of Linn County Information Technology (IT) for the ISAC Excellence in Action Program award for the work effort he put forth on a GIS product. This product became publicly available on the Linn County website during 2023, offering innovative GIS methods that enhance the visibility of County services to our residents.

Matt Boyle, GIS Analyst, worked closely with the Linn County Treasurer's Office to assemble a Property Tax Collections and Distribution GIS Hub site <https://treasurer-linncounty-gis.hub.arcgis.com/>.

The purpose of this product is to enhance tax collection transparency and provide details of how and where these collected property taxes get dispersed. The hub site contains maps, statistics, graphs, and charts meant to provide the community with information about the tax collection process. Innovative methods are being used to augment data from the County's property tax system to allow configured GIS tools to provide current and historical property tax information for each individual property.

Matt took ownership of this idea, spent the time learning the required processes and successfully used GIS to enhance the services the County offers. His product provides our community with an efficient means to access and understand County data and services while not having a negative impact on our budgets.

Matt's GIS project was innovative and:

- Enhanced the cost effectiveness of a new or existing county government program;
- Enhanced the level of citizen participation in, or the understanding of, government programs; and
- Provided a model from which other counties or affiliates may learn.

Matt's GIS project demonstrated innovative thinking and:

- Provided the ability to offer new and innovative ideas or methods to residents, staff, or stakeholders;
- Enhanced the cost effectiveness of these projects within the county; and
- Enhanced the level of citizen participation in, or the understanding of, government programs.

Matt's and his co-worker's GIS products were demonstrated to the ISAC Board of Directors in Cedar Rapids last year during the Board Retreat with high praise from those in attendance.

Comment from Nicki Finger, Deputy Linn County Treasurer, Property Tax:

"I would like to express my support for Matt Boyle's nomination for the ISAC Excellence in Action Award. His ability and willingness to learn more to create an online tool for the taxpayers of Linn County is something we are so fortunate to experience.

Matt spent a great deal of time learning about the property tax cycle and collection process as well as learning the Tyler property tax software which enabled them to assemble necessary data to create a one stop product for our residents to find tax information. This tool enhances the transparency of the complex property tax functions by offering easy to read charts and maps.

This property tax site is being used by residents to visualize their own property taxes while comparing them with others in their community or other communities within Linn County. They are able to see where their tax dollars go and help provide a deeper understanding of local government.

The tax site is quickly accessible for the Board of Supervisors and other elected officials to see where we stand as a county on collections progress, displaying near real-time data to help facilitate effective public policy making. Matt was able to create a series of data automation procedures to keep the data current and accurate. This minimizes time and cost spent doing research as it efficiently displays the information with a couple of mouse clicks.

Matt has also worked to fine tune the features that are specific for local businesses that coordinate property sales and transfers. He worked with some community businesses so they can use this tax site to quickly and accurately gather the information needed to complete their real estate closings or title searches."

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

District 1 | **Kirsten Running-Marquardt**

District 2 | **Ben Rogers**

District 3 | **Louis J. Zumbach**

JEAN OXLEY LINN COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER

935 2ND ST. SW
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52404
PH: 319-892-5000
LinnCountyIowa.gov



May 24, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

It is my pleasure to support Matt Boyle's nomination for the ISAC Excellence in Action Award. Matt played a key role in developing a GIS-based system that brings increased transparency to the property tax collection and distribution process in Linn County.

Property taxes are often a contentious subject. As the property tax collector for all taxing jurisdictions, county governments often take the brunt of complaints from property owners even when county property taxes make up one of the smallest percentages of the tax bill.

Matt worked collaboratively with the Treasurer's Office to create an online lookup tool that includes interactive maps, a dashboard, and charts that show countywide property tax statistics, the tax bill cycle, property tax levy rates for all taxing jurisdictions in the county, and the last three years of an individual property's tax bill. The site also shows taxpayers exactly how much of their property taxes – down to the penny – are distributed among the different taxing jurisdictions, such as their city of residence, school district, and county. When entering an address in the mapping tool, it will display a pie chart with the exact dollar amount and percentage of taxes going to each taxing jurisdiction.

This is an enormously helpful tool when taxpayers contact us with questions about where their property taxes are going.

Matt's work embraces Linn County's focus on collaboration, innovation, and providing exceptional public services for our residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kirsten Running-Marquardt'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kirsten Running-Marquardt, Chairperson
Linn County Board of Supervisors